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MAR 15 2006

PATENT  
Attorney Reference Number 1011-59279-01

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Pannala et al.

Application No. 10/045,523

Filed: October 19, 2001

Confirmation No. 9975

For: A METHOD AND APPARATUS TO  
GENERATE A WIRING HARNESS  
LAYOUT

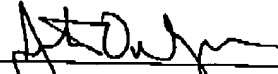
Examiner: Binh C. Tat

Art Unit: 2825

Attorney Reference No. 1011-59279-01

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for Applicant(s)

Date Transmitted

  
March 15, 2006VIA FACSIMILE (571) 273-8300  
MAIL STOP AMENDMENT  
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. BOX 1450  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Enclosed is an Amendment for the above application. The fee has been calculated as shown below.

CLAIMS AS AMENDED						
For	No. after amendment	No. paid for previously	Present Extra	Rate	Fee	
Total Claims	53	- 53*	= 0	\$50.00	\$ 0.00	
Indep. Claims	15	- 15**	= 0	\$200.00	\$ 0.00	
Mult. Dep. Claims Fee (if not previously paid)				\$360.00		
One-month Extension of Time				\$120.00		
Two-month Extension of Time				\$450.00		
Three-month Extension of Time				\$1,020.00		
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT					\$0.00	

\* greater of twenty or number for which fee has been paid.

\*\* greater of three or number for which fee has been paid.

☒ No additional fee is required.

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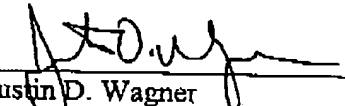
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- ☒ Please charge any additional fees that may be required in connection with filing this amendment and any extension of time, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4550. A copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- ☒ If the Patent and Trademark Office determines that this amendment results in an additional application size fee for pages in excess of 100, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 02-4550. A copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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cc: Docketing

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Application Number 10/045,523

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## RESPONSE

This responds to the Office action dated February 13, 2006. Claims 1-53 are pending in the application. The Examiner has divided the claims into six groups and required an election of one group under 35 U.S.C. § 121. Table 1 below shows the claim groups as currently restricted by the Examiner.

Group I	Claims 1, 2, 4, 14-17, 27-30, and 42-51
Group II	Claims 3
Group III	Claim 5-8, 18-21, 31-34, 52, and 53
Group IV	Claims 9-11, 22-24, and 35-37
Group V	Claims 12-13, 25-26, and 38-39
Group VI	Claims 40 and 41

Table 1

**Applicants elect Group III with traverse.**

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***The Present Application Should Be Examined in its Entirety Because Such Examination Can Be Made Without Serious Burden***

According to M.P.E.P. § 803, "If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." Applicants have reviewed the application and have concluded that examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden. For example, four Office actions (mailed 12/23/03, 8/12/04, 3/29/05, and 7/21/05) had already been issued prior to the present Office action. Each Office action included claim-by-claim rejections. Therefore, the Examiner has already examined each claim so further examination should not warrant serious burden. Furthermore, two of Applicants' responses to the Office actions, including the most recent response, included no claim amendments. As such, continued examination of the claims that have already been fully examined at least once (and, for many of the claims, multiple times) should pose no serious burden on the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement.

***The Present Application Should Be Examined in its Entirety Because All of the Claims Recite a Similar Term***

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims in the present application recite either "connectivity strength," "connectivity," or "number of connections." Since all of the claims recite one of these three similar terms, Applicants respectfully submit that the application should be examined in its entirety. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement.

***Claim Groups I, II, III, and IV Should At Least Be Examined Together Because All of the Claims in These Groups Have an Identical Term in Common***

Although all of the claims should be examined together for reasons explained above, the Examiner's separation of claims of groups I, II, III, and IV into separate groups should not be done. Claims of these groups should be combined because all of the claims in these groups recite the identical term "connectivity strength." Accordingly, these claims should all be

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examined with the elected group III claims by the Examiner in the unlikely event that the Examiner disagrees with the above reasons for examination of all of the claims.

*Conclusion*

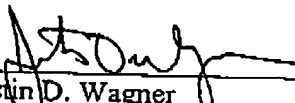
Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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